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**A REVISION OF THE FISH GENUS *OGCOEPHALUS* WITH
DESCRIPTIONS OF NEW SPECIES FROM THE WESTERN
ATLANTIC OCEAN (OGCOEPHALIDAE; LOPHIIFORMES)**

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ABSTRACT. The New World genus *Ogcocephalus* comprises twelve species. Two species are island endemics in the eastern Pacific, *Ogcocephalus darwini* Hubbs in the Galápagos archipelago and *Ogcocephalus porrectus* Garman off Cocos Island, but the remaining ten are western Atlantic species. Five of the Atlantic species are described as new: *Ogcocephalus pantostictus* and *Ogcocephalus declivirostris* from the northern and western Gulf of Mexico, *Ogcocephalus rostellum* from the Atlantic coast of the southeastern United States, *Ogcocephalus corniger* also from the Atlantic coast of the southeastern United States but ranging into the eastern Gulf of Mexico, and *Ogcocephalus pumilus* from the Caribbean and coasts of the Guianas. *Ogcocephalus parvus* Longley and Hildebrand has a wider range than formerly known, from the coast of the southeastern United States and eastern Gulf of Mexico through the Caribbean to the Atlantic coast of South America. *Ogcocephalus vesperillo* (Linnaeus) has a more restricted range than formerly thought, the coast of Brazil from the mouth of the Amazon to the mouth of the Rio de la Plata. *Ogcocephalus notatus* (Cuvier and Valenciennes) also has a southerly distribution in the western Atlantic, the coast of northern South America from Colombia to northern Brazil. The variable species *Ogcocephalus nasutus* (Cuvier and Valenciennes) appears to be allopatric with *O. vesperillo* (Linnaeus), which it most resembles; *O. nasutus* ranges from the mouth of the Amazon through the Caribbean to the Bahamas and southeastern Florida. *Ogcocephalus cubifrons* (Richardson) ranges from the Bahamas and the coast of the southeastern United States into the eastern Gulf of Mexico to at least Pensacola, Florida, and Campeche Banks. The name *Ogcocephalus radiatus* (Mitchill) is placed in the synonymy of *Ogcocephalus cubifrons*. Illustrated keys, photographs, diagnoses, and distribution maps are provided.

INTRODUCTION

Ogcocephalids from the western Atlantic Ocean have become available in large numbers during the last two or more decades, much of the new material a handsome dividend from the work of exploratory vessels of the U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service sampling new fishing

grounds. Prior to this exploratory period, specimens of ogcocephalids were uncommon in collections except for those captured inshore by swimmers or divers, particularly off Florida and off islands in the Caribbean. Few in number and little studied, these specimens were difficult to assign names to because variation in characters then used in diagnoses was not understood. Variation in the length of the prominent rostrum was a frequent source of error. The information developed in this study is that some species may be diagnosed by their long rostrums at all sizes,

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